(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would consider fixing the targets?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) In terrestrial mode, TV coverage is estimated to be available to about 91 % population of the country. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, TV coverage through terrestrial mode is nearly 98% of its population. However, multi channel TV coverage to *hitherto* uncovered areas through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus" has been provided to the entire country (except A&N Islands). It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country with the help of a small sized dish receive units.

Setting up of FM Radio Channels in Karnataka

1430. SHRI KB. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to set up FM radio channels in all districts in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): All India Radio has no plan to set up FM radio transmitters district-wise, as the coverage from a transmitter may also extend to adjoining areas. However, 14 FM radio transmitters are functioning in various districts of Karnataka. The coverage by FM in the state of Karnataka is 25.63% by area and 36.36% by population, which is higher than the National average of 23.79% by area and 34.52% by population. Moreover, under Phase II of the private FM broadcasting policy, there have been fourteen successful bidders for the operation of private FM channels in four districts of Karnataka State.

Functioning of AIR/DD Kendras in Andhra Pradesh

1431. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIR/DD Kendras functioning in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any proposal for digitalization of these Kendras is under consideration of Government;

(c) if so, the steps taken and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount sanctioned by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Three Doordarshan Kendras at Hyderabad, Vijaywada and Warangal and twelve All India Radio Kendras at Anantapur, Adilabad, Cuddapah, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Kottagudam, Markapuram, Nizamabad, Tirupati, Vijaywada, Vishakhapatnam and Warangal are currently functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Digitisation is a continuous and on-going process. However, so far as A.P. is concerned, Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) at Hyderabad was digitalized during 2004-05 at a cost of Rs. 12 crore. DDK, Vijaywada is envisaged to be partially digitalized during 2005-06 at a cost of Rs. 2 crore. Digitalization of DDK Warangal would depend upon the availability of resources in future plans.

As regards, AIR, digitalization schemes completed in the State are: (i) Hard Disk based recording, playback and editing system at nine centres, (ii) Upgradation of Captive Earth Station for Digital mode at Hyderabad, (iii) Digital studio transmitter link at Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam. As part of digitalization, a sum of Rs. 77 lakh has been proposed for fifty numbers of Hard Disk Based System work stations.

Fund collected from foreign and domestic broadcasters

1432. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign broadcasters are paying very low tax to Government as compared to the domestic broadcasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds collected from the foreign and domestic broadcasters during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to collect the tax from foreign broadcasters at par with the domestic broadcasters?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Advertisements through DAVP

1433. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings have not reacted positively to the recent decision of asking public sector companies to release their advertisements only through Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity;